

REMARKS

In the course of preparing this Amendment, applicants noted several editorial and spelling errors in the specification that are corrected hereinabove.

Initially, applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-10, inclusive, and claims 14-16, inclusive. It is also noted that the Official Action indicates that claims 11-13, inclusive, and 17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 set forth in the Office Action.

Claims 11-13, 17, 20, and 21 as originally filed were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, claim 11 is rejected to in regard to the recitation at line 2 of "said downturned lip" which is asserted to be without antecedent basis. Line 11 is amended hereinabove to read "a downturned lip" as a positively recited element which is not previously recited in claim 11 or the claims from which claim 11 depends. Claim 17 is deemed indefinite due to the recitation of "depending on the application" which has now been deleted. In view of the above amendments to claims 11 and 17 it is submitted that the indefiniteness objections thereto are overcome and claims 11-13 and 17 are now in allowable condition.

Original claim 20 was rejected for lack of antecedent for the terms "said first decorative rail" and "said second decorative rail". Claim 20 has been hereinabove amended at line 4 to replace "first decorative component" and "second decorative component" with "first decorative rail" and "second decorative rail", respectively, to thus provide a direct antecedent basis for those recitations objected to. Accordingly, it is submitted that the antecedent objection to claim 20 is overcome by these amendments.

Original claims 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as anticipated by Pinto U.S. Patent No. 6, 148,896 (hereinafter Pinto '896 patent). In support of this rejection the Official Action indicates that the Pinto '896 patent discloses first and second decorative rails, 26, 28, 31, 32 having decorative components 46-49, 27, 29, 57, 58 disposed flush therebetween on an exterior surface 15 of the panels 11-14. It is submitted that amended independent claims

18 and 20, and claims 19 and 21 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over the Pinto '896 patent.

Claim 18 initially recites a plurality of interconnected panels having pinch resistant interfaces formed therebetween. A feature of the present invention is to provide a door having a decorative outer surface without compromising the pinch resistant characteristics of the door. The Pinto '896 patent clearly does not have pinch resistant interfaces between the panels either before or after installation of the decorative overlays 25 on the outer face of the panel. Referring to Figs. 2 and 5 of the Pinto '896 patent, it is to be noted that the top of each door section has a rib 18 that aligns with and is accommodated by a groove 19 in the bottom of the next adjacent section when the door is in the vertical closed position. With the hinges 19 located at the juncture between adjacent sections as seen in Figs. 2 and 5, the Pinto door in the area of elements of the overlay 25 and otherwise at each of the panel interfaces produces a notoriously dangerous pinch hazard during articulation of the door. Clearly the entire design of the Pinto '896 patent is without pinch resistant features and is equally incapable of providing a pinch resistant capability with the addition of the elements of the depicted overlays 25, 225.

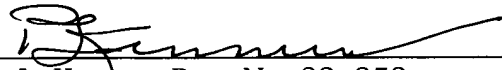
Amended claim 18 further specifies that the panels have a body portion with an exterior surface which spaces a first decorative rail integral with the body portion and a second decorative rail also integral with the body portion. In contrast, the first and second decorative rails 26, 28, 31 and 32 referenced in the Official Action are not formed integrally with the panels as claim 18 now specifies. Rather, these rails in the Pinto '896 patent constitute a portion of overlay 25 which is separately fabricated and attached to the exterior surface 15 of door 10 with an adhesive material 37, together with fasteners 38. Further, the Pinto '896 patent does not have a multi surface panel exterior where the exterior surface is offset from the decorative rails with the attached decorative components extending between the rails and being outwardly flush with the decorative rails to thus form a desired raised decorative pattern on the exterior of a sectional door.

Independent claim 20 has been amended hereinabove in a manner similar to claim 18, such as to patentably distinguish over the Pinto '896 patent for the reasons discussed above in

conjunction with claim 18. In particular, claim 20 requires a plurality of interconnected panels having pinch resistant interfaces formed therebetween during movement of the door between an open position and a closed position. Claim 20 further specifies that body portion of the panels has an exterior surface which spaces a first decorative rail formed integral with the exterior surface and a second decorative rail also formed integral with the exterior surface. Claim 20 further specifies an offset depth from the first decorative rail and second decorative rail to the exterior surface with decorative components positioned on the exterior surface between the decorative rails and outwardly flush with the decorative rails. Thus, it is submitted that independent claim 20 clearly patentably distinguishes over the Pinto '896 patent for a multiplicity of reasons.

In view of the above amendments to the claims and the related discussion, reconsideration and favorable action on claims 1-21 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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